



Executive Officer's Report to the Board October 24, 2003

Board Updates

Extensive Policy Review Under Way

Eight Board committees have been meeting for the past month or more to review, and ultimately rewrite, the Victim Compensation Program's policies for processing claims. The committees involve representatives from every Board section or division, including policy, training, revenue and recovery, hearings, audits, claim processing, and legal.

Meeting at least once weekly, the committees are examining each sentence of the Board's policies. The result will be rewritten and updated policies, which will ultimately result in updated regulations for the Board. The work is also crucial to the development of a new claims management computer system to replace the outdated VOX computer system. This work builds on a comprehensive legal audit of the Board's policies that was conducted at the request of the Board this spring.

The committees, covering the areas of eligibility, reimbursement sources, relocation, medical, income support/wage loss, funeral/burial, mental health, and overpayments, warrants and provider issues are expected to complete the thorough review of the Board's policies by Nov. 3. Their next task will be to write final chapters to the Board's policy and resource manual and then develop business rules for the new claims management system. Finally, the Board's legal division will draft new regulations to implement the new policies.

Board Participates in Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, both nationally and as proclaimed in California by Governor Gray Davis. National statistics indicate that one woman is beaten by her husband or partner every 15 seconds and half of all women in America experience violence in their intimate relationships.

Every year in California, almost 6 percent of women suffer physical injuries from domestic violence. California law enforcement received 196,569 domestic violence calls in 2002; 119,850 of those calls involved weapons, including firearms and knives, and 153 murders in 2002 were the result of intimate partner violence in California. About 916,000 children were exposed to intimate partner violence in the home.

The Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (Board) assists thousands of domestic violence victims each year. In Fiscal Year 2002/03, the Victim Compensation Program (VCP) received 17,550 applications from victims of domestic violence and paid more than \$21 million in benefits to domestic violence victims and their service providers.

In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Board co-sponsored the "Stop Family Violence" Postage Stamp Unveiling Ceremony at the State Capitol on October 14. The U.S. Postal Service and the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence coordinated the event. The stamp sells for 45 cents, and a portion of the proceeds will be given to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for domestic violence programs. The stamp will be sold through December 31, 2006.

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The Silent Witness Silhouettes, symbolic of the impact of domestic violence, were on display during the unveiling, and Board staff worked a booth and educated the public about the VCP.

The Board is a member of the California State interagency Domestic Violence Collaborative (Collaborative). The Collaborative members mailed domestic violence information packets throughout the state. Board staff assembled and mailed packets to district attorneys and victim/witness centers.

Victim Compensation

Staff Training on Relocation Benefits

During October, the training staff is instructing all VCP claims processors, supervisors and support staff on the VCP's relocation benefits. The 3.5-hour class covers:

- Determining reimbursement eligibility;
- The types of expenses that can be paid as a relocation expense;
- The amount of money available to reimburse expenses;
- Assessing the need for relocation; and
- Verifying relocation expenses

Following the initial period of instruction, small groups work on mock relocation requests. The training section will review the first two relocation claims completed by each class attendee to evaluate the success of the training.

Revised Mental Health Regulations Update

The revised regulations implementing the service limitations for outpatient mental health counseling were approved as emergency regulations earlier this month. By the end of October, Board staff will submit the documents to the Office of Administrative Law that are necessary to make those regulations permanent. It is anticipated that the Office of Administrative Law will finish its review within six weeks of the submission of the final documents.

Revenue Recovery

Board Reaches Out to Judicial Council

With the assistance of State and Consumer Services Agency Secretary Aileen Adams, the Revenue Recovery and Appeals Division (RRAD) has begun discussions with the Judicial Council. This partnership will hopefully increase restitution orders and collections. On October 22, Catherine Close, Interim Executive Officer, and David Shaw, Deputy Executive Officer, RRAD, provided statewide restitution training and a Restitution Fund update in San Mateo to presiding judges and court administrative officers.

RRAD will assist the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) in developing training curriculum and materials. RRAD restitution brochures and materials will be included in training both for new and existing judges. RRAD will participate in a study group developed by SB940 (Escutia) to track restitution and other statewide collections in California. RRAD will also participate in criminal law committee meetings with the State Bar.

Trainings for Deputy District Attorneys and Probation Officers

On September 30 and October 1, 2003, RRAD staff presented restitution training to approximately 30 deputy district attorneys and probation officers in Lassen County. From October 6–8, 2003, Revenue Recovery and California Department of Corrections staff provided restitution training to approximately 150 juvenile and adult probation officers in Los Angeles.

Meetings/Conferences:

On October 8, 2003, RRAD staff attended the quarterly Restitution Pilot Program for amending restitution orders for victims receiving assistance from the Restitution Fund as provided for in Penal Code section 1202.41.

Staff gave an update on a pilot study the Board established with eight counties designed to modify to-be-determined (TBD) orders and restitution orders where the Board has paid out substantially more than the court initially ordered. The study is focused on obtaining restitution orders for collection purposes.

The Honorable Joseph Hurley chairs the Restitution Pilot Working Group Meeting. Membership consists of judges, representatives from the district attorney's office, Criminal Restitution Compact restitution specialists, public defender's office staff, probation department staff, central collections staff, Board staff, the California Department of Corrections, and several other Alameda County agencies.

On October 9, 2003, Revenue Recovery staff attended the 2003 California Revenue Recovery Officers Association Conference in Sacramento. Topics included implementing AB 3000, collecting warrants, and revenue recovery enhancing ideas for cities.

Hearing and Appeals:

During the month of October 2003, 37 claims were scheduled. Between September 19, 2003, and October 24, 2003, a total of 41 hearings were scheduled.

Upcoming Events

(The conferences and events listed below are for informational purposes only.)

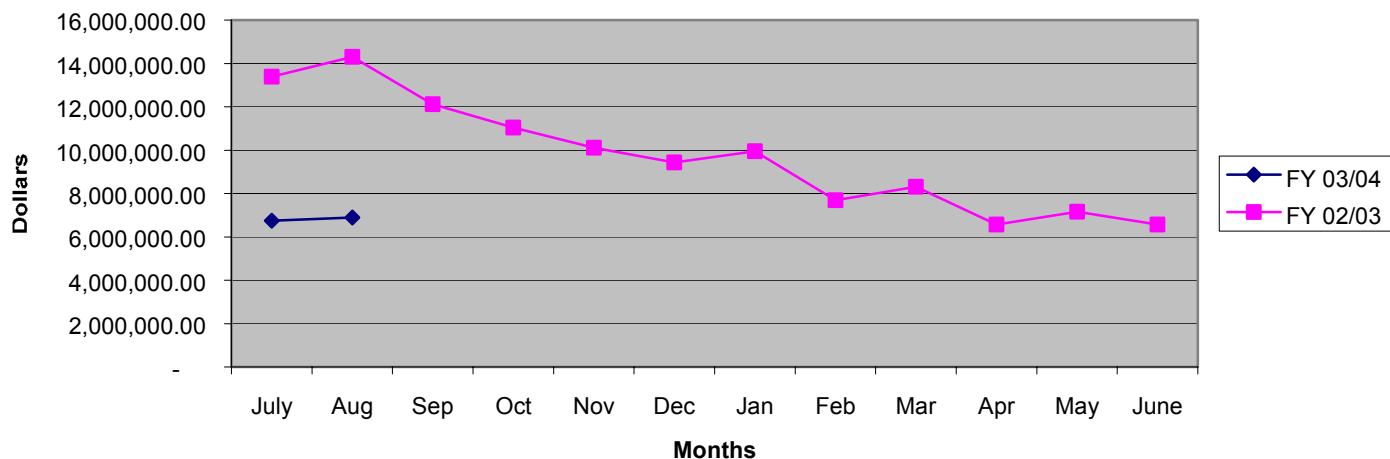
None Scheduled

Victim Compensation Program Activity

VCP PAYMENTS

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of September	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	\$6,185,950	\$19,828,459	-50%
FY 02/03		\$39,806,852	

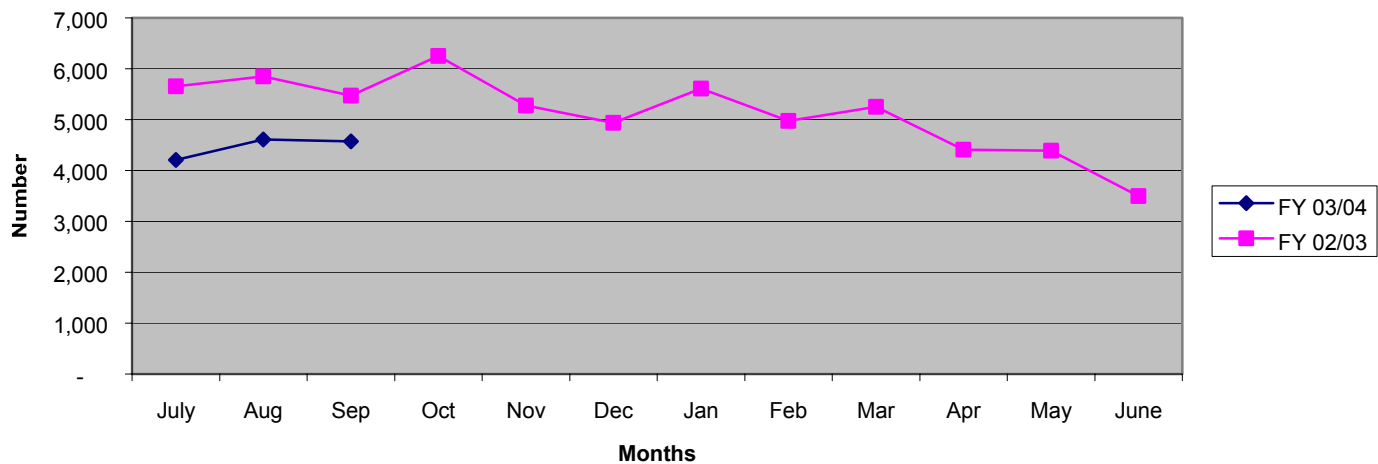
Payment Awards



VCP NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of September	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	4,575	13,392	-21%
FY 02/03		16,974	

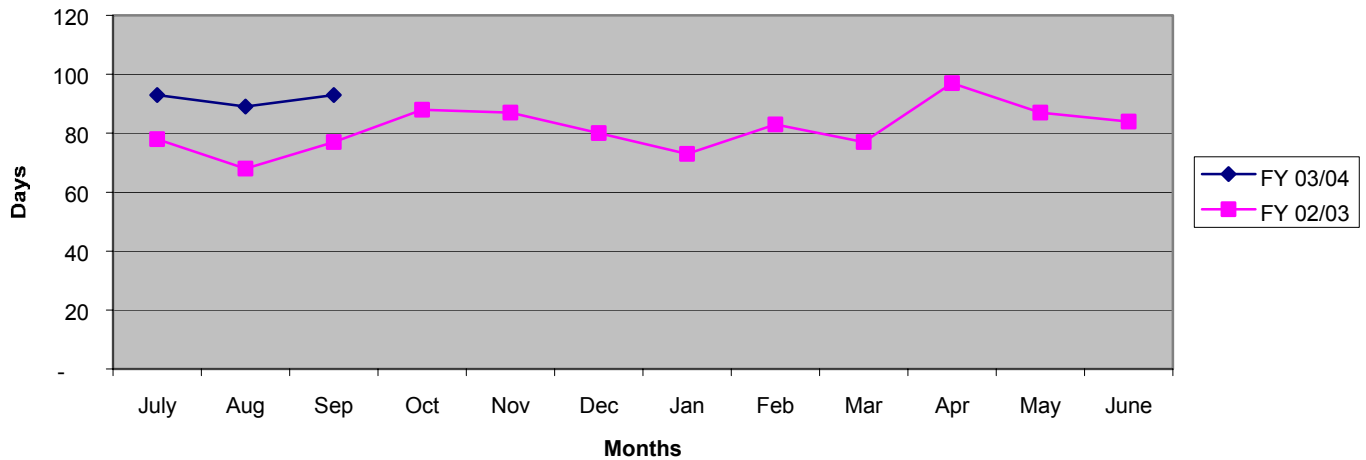
Number of VCP Applications Received



VCP APPLICATION PROCESSING TIME IN DAYS

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of September	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior
FY 03/04	93	92	23%
FY 02/03		74	

VCP Application Processing Time

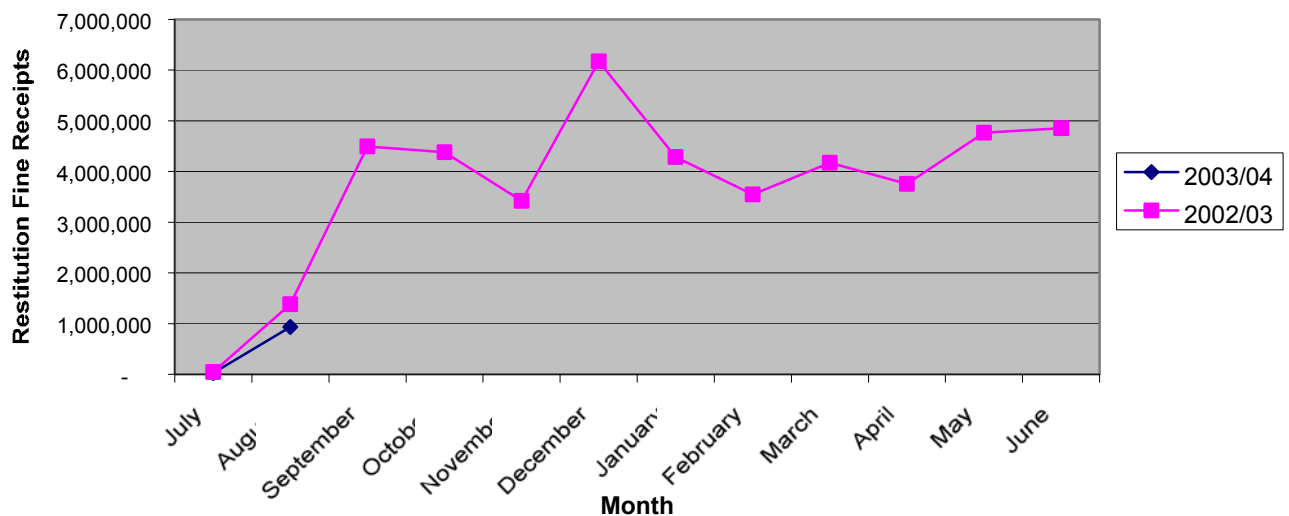


Revenue and Recovery

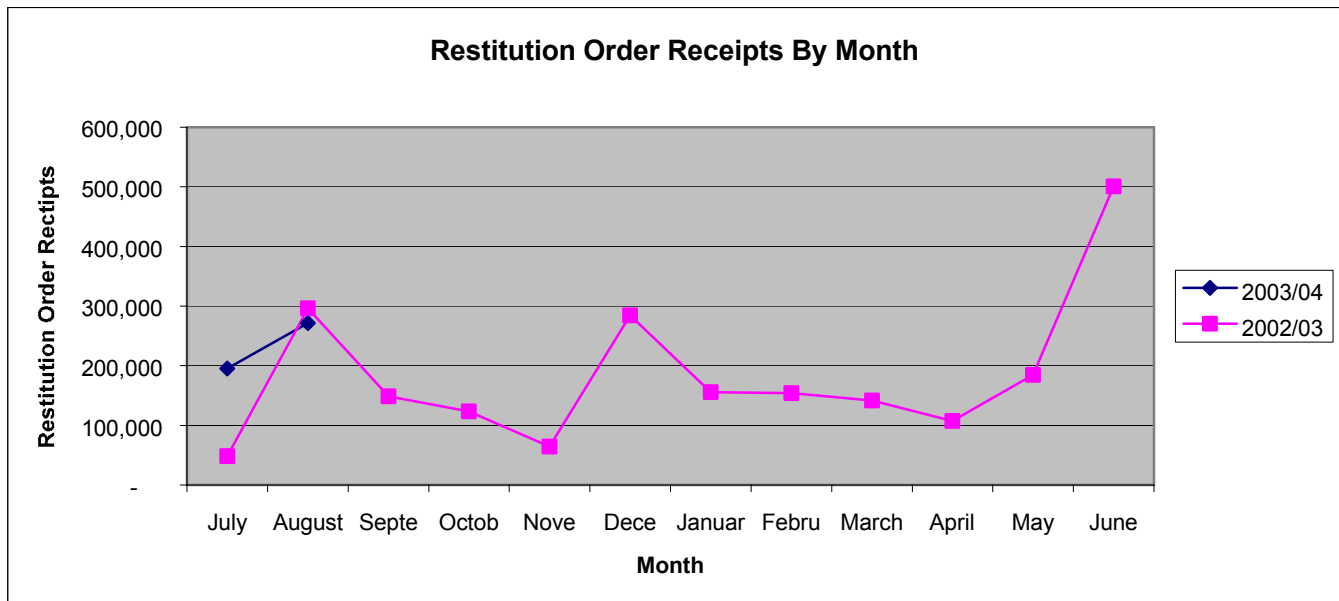
RESTITUTION FINES

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of August	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	935,836	964,216	-32%
FY 02/03		1,425,135	

Restitution Fine Receipts By Month

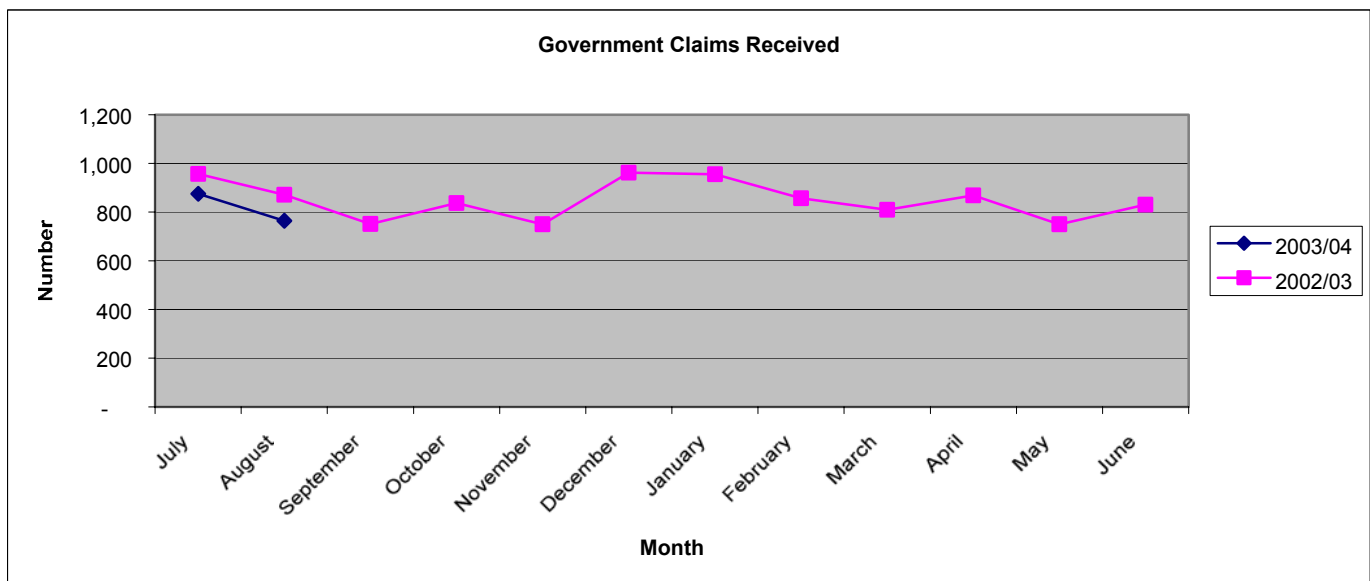


RESTITUTION ORDERS			
Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of August	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	271,751	466,945	35%
FY 02/03		344,970	



Government Claims

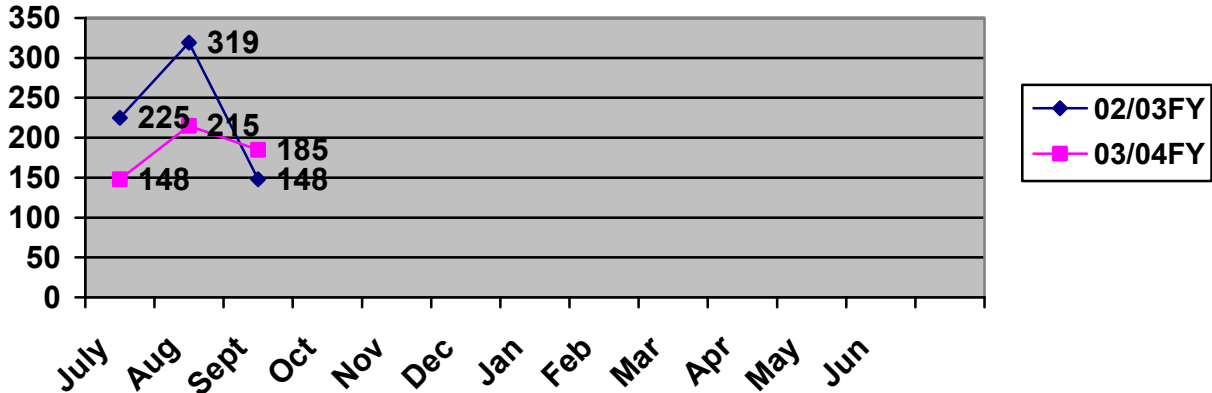
GOVERNMENT CLAIMS RECEIVED			
Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of August	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	764	1,639	-10%
FY 02/03	871	1,828	-



CONTRACT CLAIMS – AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of September	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	185	182	-3%
FY 02/03		188	

Contract Claims- Avg Proc Time

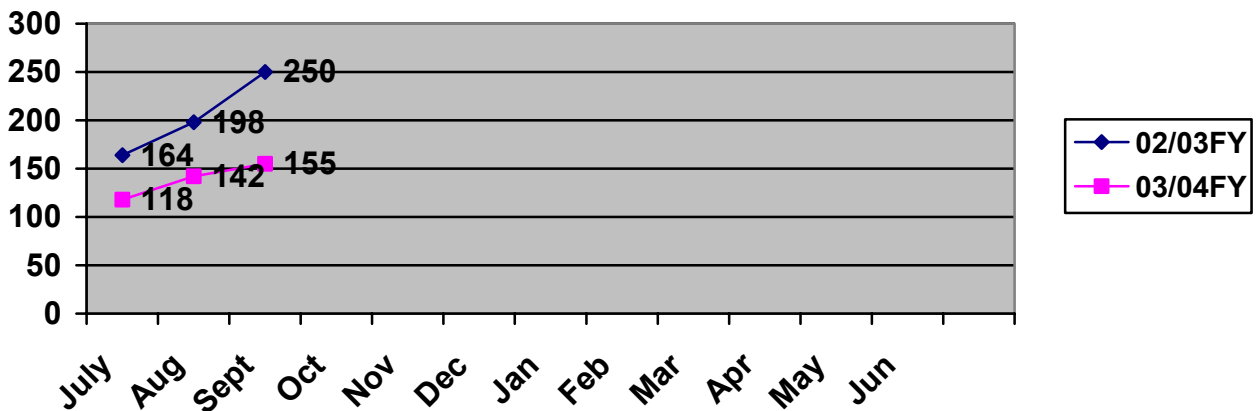


Contract claims -These are typically claims where a vendor has provided services to the State, but a purchase order or contract was not officially in place at the time the services were performed and, therefore, the affected agency does not have the authority to pay the invoice without the Board's approval.

EQUITY CLAIMS – AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of September	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	155	139	-32%
FY 02/03		204	

Equity Claims - Avg Proc Time

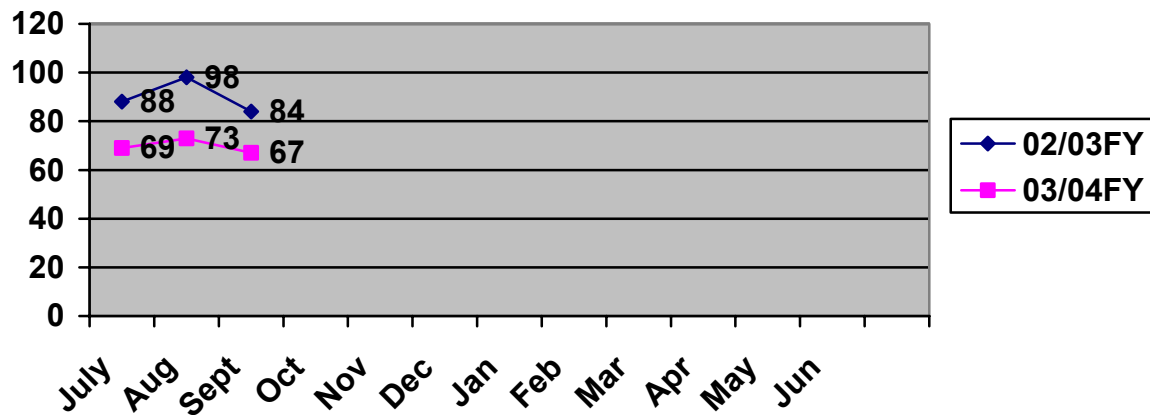


Equity Claims - These are claims where there is no legal liability on the part of the State to pay, but for which the claimant has asked the Board to exercise its equity power to provide payment in fairness for the action or inaction of a State agency. Also included to a large degree are outdated warrants (State-issued checks that went un-cashed for more than 3 years).

TORT CLAIMS – AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of September	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	67	70	-22%
FY 02/03	84	90	

Tort Claims - Avg Proc Time



Tort Claims –These are claims for damages filed against specific State agencies. These claims are generally rejected, but are a required administrative action to be taken by a claimant prior to bringing civil action against the State in a court of law. The filing of the Tort claim gives the State advance notice of potential future litigation.